

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 01254 311518Z
ACTION INR-10

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY KABUL
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6907
AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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E O 11652: NA
TAGS: PDIP PEPR PINR AF TU
SUBJ: NEW TURKISH AMBASSADOR TO AFGHANISTAN: ILHAN BAKAY

REF: KABUL 3977

1. SUPPLEMENTING BIO DATA ON BAKAY GIVEN IN ANKARA 4027, WE WOULD EMPHASIZE THAT HIS POSITION IN BERLIN HAS INDEED BEEN A RESPONSIBLE AND DIFFICULT ONE INVOLVING RUNNING AN OFFICE THAT NUMBERS MORE THAN 100 AND IS A MINI-TURKISH GOVERNMENT. HE HAS BEEN COPING WITH A MULTITUDE OF TURKISH GUEST WORKER PROBLEMS IN GERMANY FOR YEARS NOW AND HAD LOOKED FORWARD TO A MORE RELAXED EXISTENCE AS AN AMBASSADOR. WHETHER POST-COUP KABUL IS QUITE WHAT HE HAD IN MIND MAY BE QUESTIONABLE.

2. BAKAY IS FRIENDLY AND OUTGOING, AND HAS NUMEROUS CONTACTS IN THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY. HE IS OBVIOUSLY MIFFED AT CURRENT LIMITATIONS ON U.S. POLICY TOWARDS TURKEY, BUT THIS DOES NOT DISTURB HIS PERSONAL CORDIALITY TOWARDS US. BAKAY DOES NOT HESITATE TO REMIND GERMAN INTERLOCUTORS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TURKISH GUEST WORKER TO THE GERMAN ECONOMY. HE HAS BEEN HEARD TO SAY THAT THE MAP OF THE WESTERN PART OF BERLIN SHOWS THE CITY BROKEN DOWN INTO 12 DISTRICTS, BUT THAT IN FACT THERE ARE 13 DISTRICT

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PAGE 02 USBERL 01254 311518Z

MAYORS, BECAUSE HE AS THE TURKISH CONSUL GENERAL IS THE LEADER OF THE TURKISH CONTINGENT IN BERLIN. THIS COMPRISES SOME 60,000 LEGALLY-REGISTERED TURKISH WORKERS IN TOWN, PLUS PERHAPS AS MANY MORE FAMILY MEMBERS AND OTHERS WHO HAVE JUST DRIFTED IN. (EVERY THIRD BABY BORN IN BERLIN IS A TURK). HE PLAYS A VARIANT OF THIS TUNE FOR HIS AMERICAN CONTACTS WHEN HE DESCRIBES THE

TURKISH GUEST WORKERS IN BERLIN AS THE EQUIVALENT OF "FIVE NATO DIVISIONS", THE POINT BEING THAT TURKEY IS NOT TO BE TREATED LIGHTLY. SPECIFICALLY, HE IS FAIRLY HARD LINE ON THE CYPRUS QUESTION.

3. BAKAY SPEAKS ENGLISH AND GERMAN, BUT NOT VERY WELL. HE ALSO SPEAKS FLUENT FRENCH. HE HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL AWARDS FOR DIPLOMATIC SERVICE AS WELL AS AN HONOR AWARD IN 1973 FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION. HE IS A WRITER, HAVING MENTIONED TO US VARIOUS ARTICLES ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHICH HAVE BEEN PRINTED.

4. BAKAY'S WIFE GULA (WITH A UMLAUT OVER THE U) SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH AND GERMAN, BUT HER FRENCH IS NOT SO GOOD. SHE IS CHARMING AND CULTIVATED WOMAN. THEY HAVE ONE SON, BORN IN 1953 IN HAMBURG. GEORGE

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